

**REMARKS**

Claims 6-25, 27-28, 30, 32-37 and 39-40 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 6, 16, 19, 25, 27, 32-33, 35 and 40 are amended and claims 29, 31 and 38 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Various amendments are made for clarity and are unrelated to issues of patentability.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and/or (3) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. More specifically, the above amendments amend the independent claims to include allowable subject matter and thus place the application in condition for allowance. Entry is thus proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

The Office Action rejects the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Publication 2004/0100994 to Miller and U.S. Patent 7,047,385 to Bhattacharya et al. either alone or in combination with U.S. Patent 6,505,269 to Potter, U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0156995 to Martin et al., U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0037226 to Tsunuta et al., U.S. Patent 6,052,802 to Zahir et al., U.S. Patent 5,867,683 to Witt et al., and/or U.S. Patent 6,732,247 to Berg et al. The rejections are respectfully traversed with respect to the pending claims.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication that claims 16, 17, 19, 21-24, 29, 30, 32 and 38-40 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, independent claim 6 is amended to include allowable features of dependent claims 31 and 32 and allowable

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dependent claims 16 is rewritten in independent form. Furthermore, independent claim 25 is amended to include allowable features of dependent claim 29 and independent claim 35 is amended to include allowable features of dependent claim 38. Further, allowable dependent claim 40 is rewritten into independent form. The applied references do not teach or suggest all the features of each of the independent claims. Accordingly, each of independent claims 6, 16, 25, 35 and 40 contain allowable subject matter.

Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 6-25, 27-28, 30, 32-37 and 39-40 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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